

XXI. *Observations on the Genus of Porella, and the Phascum caulescens of Linnæus.* By Mr. James Dickson, F. L. S.

Read May 5, 1795.

THE genus of *Porella*, first established by Dillenius, and from him copied by Linnæus, who never saw the plant, had long appeared to me to be very doubtful: I had, however, an opportunity, some time ago, of satisfying myself on this subject. I happened to receive some mosses as package to plants from America; and, upon examining them, found a *Jungermannia* and a *Splachnum* in fructification. I suspected the *Jungermannia* to be the same with the *Porella* of Dillenius; but this could not be ascertained without actually comparing the two specimens, which I had an opportunity of doing by the indulgence of Dr. Sibthorp, of Oxford, who permitted me to compare my mosses with Dillenius's original collection; and, upon the most careful examination, I found my *Jungermannia* to agree exactly with his *Porella*, but could find no fructification upon his specimen.

As I have no doubt that my *Jungermannia* and his *Porella* are one and the same plant, I shall next endeavour to trace how Dillenius has fallen into this error; for the plant has exactly the habit of a *Jungermannia*.—This was, probably, by receiving an imperfect specimen; as the vagina, when damaged either by the weather or by insects, after the tender flower had fallen off, would very much resemble the capsule which he has figured.

His figure of the plant is too much crowded with leaves; but in his original drawings in the possession of Sir Joseph Banks, the

